

CLAIMS

Having thus described the invention, it is claimed:

1. A material application system comprising:

at least one application device at a first operational location and that when
5 operational applies a material to a surface in accordance with a first operational function;

one or more additional operational locations, each said additional operational location being physically separated from each other and said application device first location by distances such that an operator traverses between said locations; each said
10 one or more additional operational locations having an associated operational function located thereat; each associated operational function having an operator access function;

a respective wireless communication identifier associated with said application device and each said operational function at each said additional operational location
15 and said application device first location; each said identifier having a unique identification associated therewith that can be communicated in a wireless manner;

a wireless access device that when used by an operator detects said identifiers.

2. The system of claim 1 wherein said access device comprises a hand held device.

20 3. The system of claim 2 wherein said hand held device is selected from the following group: PDA, notebook personal computer; tablet personal computer.

4. The system of claim 1 comprising a wireless network that provides wireless connectivity between each said identifier and said access device.

25 5. The system of claim 4 wherein said network is selected from the following group: infrared, radio frequency, IEEE 802, LAN, WAN, VPN, intranet, Internet.

6. The system of claim 1 wherein said access device operates on proximity based detection of each said identifier.

7. The system of claim 1 wherein said access device comprises identification logic that recognizes an identifier when said access device is within a
5 sensing distance thereof.

8. The system of claim 7 wherein said access device comprises control logic that presents a visual display to the operator that is associated with a recognized identifier and its associated operational function.

9. The system of claim 7 wherein said access device comprises selection
10 logic that provides a visual display for an operator to select an operational function when two or more said identifiers are detected.

10. The system of claim 1 wherein said access device comprises override logic that provides a control display for an operator to control one or more of said operational functions when beyond a sensing distance thereof.

11. The system of claim 1 wherein said application device comprises a
15 powder spray gun and said additional operational functions include one or more of the following: feed center, cyclone, after filter, spray gun mover, part identification.

12. The system of claim 1 wherein said application device comprises a liquid dispensing device.

13. A method for controlling a material application system, comprising the
20 steps of:

providing two or more material application operational functions with each
said operational function being located at a respective operational location so that at
least two of said operational locations are physically separated from each other by a
25 distance such that an operator traverses said distance between said locations;

associating a unique wireless identifier with each said operational function;

using wireless connectivity for an operator to detect each identifier.

14. The method of claim 11 comprising the step of presenting a display to the operator that is uniquely associated with a detected identifier.

15. The method of claim 11 comprising the step of controlling operation of one or more of the following upon detection of an associated identifier: powder spray gun, powder feed center, after filter, spray gun mover, liquid dispensing gun.

16. A material application system comprising:

at least one application device at a first operational location and that when operational applies a material to a surface in accordance with a first operational function;

one or more additional operational locations, each said additional operational location being physically separated from each other and said application device first location by distances such that an operator traverses between said locations; each said one or more additional operational locations having an associated operational function located thereat; each associated operational function having an operator access function;

a respective operational function identifier associated with said application device and each said operational function at each said additional operational location and said application device first location; each said identifier having a unique identification associated therewith that can be communicated;

an access device that when used by an operator detects said identifiers and presents a menu to the operator that is associated with said detected identifier and related operational function.

17. The system of claim 14 wherein said access device is selected from the following group: PDA, notebook personal computer; tablet personal computer.

18. The system of claim 14 wherein said access device comprises a wireless hand held device.

19. The system of claim 14 wherein said access device plugs into a respective communication cradle positioned at one of said operational locations.